

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 10DAMASCUS168, V/FM MIQDAD DENIES SUPPLYING BALLISTIC MISSILES TO

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#10DAMASCUS168**.

| Reference ID                  | Created                          | Released                         | Classification         | Origin                           |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <a href="#">10DAMASCUS168</a> | <a href="#">2010-02-25 13:43</a> | <a href="#">2011-08-30 01:44</a> | <a href="#">SECRET</a> | <a href="#">Embassy Damascus</a> |

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RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 0012  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0889  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 0888  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0842  
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 2497  
RUEKJCS/CJCS WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0807  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHMISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC PRIORITY

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 000168

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/FO, NEA/ELA  
NSC FOR SHAPIRO/MCDERMOTT  
LONDON FOR LORD  
PARIS FOR NOBLES

EO 12958 DECL: 02/25/2019  
TAGS PTER, PREF, PREL, IS, LE, SY  
SUBJECT: V/FM MIQDAD DENIES SUPPLYING BALLISTIC MISSILES TO  
HIZBALLAH, DIRECTS U.S. DEMARCHE TO ISRAEL  
REF: A. STATE 17307 B. TEL AVIV 404

Classified By: CDA Charles Hunter, for reasons 1.4 b,d.

1. (S) Summary: Responding to Ref A demarche, Syrian Vice Foreign Minister (V/FM) Miqdad expressed surprise the U.S. was sharing such a strong

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Miqdad: Direct Your Message to Israel

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12. (S) Charge and Pol/Econ Chief delivered Ref A demarche to Syrian Vice Foreign Minister (V/FM) Faisal al-Miqdad on February 25. A clearly stated objective was to improve relations with Syria.  
13. (S) Referring to Hizballah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah's February 16 speech, Miqdad emphasized that Hizballah was responding to Israel's ultimatums, but rather it sought to convey what it believed to be a shared interest in avoiding conflict. Miqdad commented that it was "strange" to be asked to respond to such ultimatums.

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Denial of Supply of Weapons to Hizballah  
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14. (S) Charge replied that the U.S. message had come in the context of improving bilateral relations, which depended on a frank and candid exchange of views, not ultimatums, but rather it sought to convey what it believed to be a shared interest in avoiding conflict. Miqdad commented that it was "strange" to be asked to respond to such ultimatums.

15. (S) Charge replied that, as U/S Burns had conveyed to President Asad, the U.S. was urging all parties in the region, including Israel, to end the conflict.

16. (S) Miqdad said this issue should be discussed in the overall framework of the situation. He then contended the provision of U.S. weapons to Hizballah was unacceptable.

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CVT and DCS Follow-Up  
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17. (C) Charge affirmed the U.S. shared this intent and wanted to maximize the opportunity by staying in close contact. In that context, he raised the issue of the provision of weapons to Hizballah.

18. (C) Charge also asked Miqdad for advice on how to proceed regarding Damascus Community School (DCS). FM Muallim had instructed the Embassy to provide advice on how to proceed.

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Comment  
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19. (S) In the midst of hosting a quick-notice visit by Iranian President Ahmedinejad (who openly criticized the Secretary's Congressional testimony), Charge asked Miqdad for advice on how to proceed regarding Damascus Community School (DCS).

20. (S) Miqdad notably did not respond to our concern about a possible Hizballah revenge operation for the assassination of Imad Mughniyeh. When asked, he responded that he had not been informed of any such operation.

21. (S) Leaving aside the substance of Miqdad's response to the demarche, his agreement to meet us on two hours' notice on a Syrian holiday (to coincide with the visit of Iranian President Ahmedinejad) was welcome.